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Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier

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COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY:

Humanities on the Frontier

Project Director—Andrew Gulliford

Media Director—Randall Teeuwen

Exhibits Director—Berkeley Lobanov

HISTORIC SITE FORM

State Nebraska County Sheridan

Location (in miles & direction from nearest town) 3 miles north and 1½ miles west of Gordon, Nebraska

Is this the original location? No. A sod schoolhouse sat across the road and was the first schoolhouse.

Name of building & origin of name Mt. Pleasant (Origin unknown, however both the school and the community have used the name since the late 1800's.

Name & number of the district Mt. Pleasant. District 17

Date built 1917 Years in use 62

Who built it? A contractor or the community? Local carpenters

Does it look like it came from a plan book or was it designed by the community? Designed by John Oldenburg and two other board members

Names of former teachers: 1889 (first teacher): Cora McCoubra,
1890's: Bert Shepherd, Bert Harrison, Myrtle Gealy, Pearl Reed, Roscoe Bear
1901: Bertha Short; 1902-11: Olga Waddill, Elva Martin, Nellie Stauffer,
Pearl Rash, Lena Mathis, Lulu McConaughy, Isabel Jacobson, Gladys Council.
1914 - 1920: Lillian Roe, Helen Jacobson, Anna Nordwall, Dorothy Haller,
Annie Johnson, Mrs. Eugene R. Gealy. 1920's: Margaret Park, Mrs. Helen McGaughey,
Mrs. Ralph Gealy, Mary R. Bourne, Mabel Park, Nellie Buckminster, Verna L. Young,
Shirley Potts

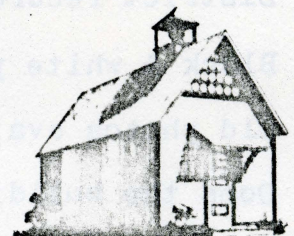
Names of former students (family names only):

Robertson, Reid, Murphy, Cave, Barron, Oldenburg, Hooker, Huff, Davis, Heck, Graves,
Kreizenbeck, Gealy, McCanley, Beckwith, Ranck, Quentin, Boils, Jones, Woodhouse,
Leach, Manning, Denny, Malson, Ischen, Clark, Stretcher, Von Bergen, Coon,
Bashor, Haller, Petshaw, Wilber

Name & address of person in charge of building:

District 83 Board--Joyce Smith, Batesland Route,
Box 75, Gordon, NE

Who is the owner? District 83, Sheridan County, NE



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COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY HISTORIC SITE FORM

Architectural Features:

Size of building 24 x 36

Number of Windows (four pane, six pane, etc.) Eight two pane

Number of doors (entrances) Four

Number of classrooms one

Bell tower or cupola no

Materials used (wood, brick, stone, etc.) wood, brick, cement

Type of roof asbestos shingles

Outhouses had one, now gone

Playground Equipment swings, merry-go-round

Color of building & trim white

Coal shed or stable stable

Teacherage no. One teacher did live in the basement for some time.

Flagpole yes.

Other architectural features:

A basement and indoor plumbing were added in 1953. School was damaged by fire in 1973 and the roofline was changed slightly when rebuilt.

Anything left inside? piano, desks and chairs, tables, some books.

Narrative Information: Did any special events happen at the school? What stories do people remember?

The fire in 1973 was set by a student who believed he would be sent to school in nearby Gordon if he burned the school down.

Current condition & use: Good condition. Presently vacant although the district is holding the building in case of need in the future.

District records available: yes x no where stored Sheridan Co. Supt. and Mrs. Robert Gealy

Black & white photo taken: yes x no

Old photos available: yes x no

Does the building have any state or national historic designation?

Name & address of surveyor no Carol Oldenburg date 11/15/80